TALES OF HORROR AND SUSPENSE!

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EERIE

The CHAMBER of DEATH
The STRANGER in STUDIO X
HONEYMOON of HORROR
The THING from the SEA

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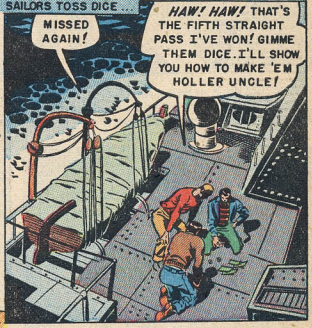
THE THING FROM THE SEA!

ON BOARD THE FREIGHT STEAMER *HAVANA*, UNDER THE SHADOW OF A LIFEBOAT, THREE SAILORS TOSS DICE...



IT CAME UP FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE *OCEAN*, A ROTTING *SOMETHING* FROM WHICH THE FLESH SLOUGHED OFF AS IT WALKED. THE HOLLOWS, WHERE ITS EYES HAD GLARED OUT AT THE WORLD... AS IF ETERNALLY SEEKING SOMEONE. AS IT WALKED, PAST THE ANCIENT WRECKS, AND THE FISH THAT PLAYED IN THEM, ITS HANDS REACHED OUT, *CLAWING*, AS THOUGH TO REACH THE MAN IT WANTED.

AND IN THE REALM OF THE LIVING, ABLE SEAMAN JOHNNY SMITHERS LAUGHED AND LOVED, *NEVER* DREAMING THAT DESTINY WAS COMING HIS WAY ON *DEAD FEET*. NO NEED FOR HIM TO WORRY... OR *WAS THERE?*

CHEATED? I GOT A GOOD MIND TO---

YOU *DID* CHEAT! YOU *PALMED* THOSE DICE! HELD 'EM SO THEY WOULDN'T BOUNCE BUT WOULD *SLIDE* ACROSS THE DECK! I WON'T PAY—

WON'T, HEY? WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! YOU GO BELOW DECK WITH ME TO THE SKIPPER'S OFFICE. WE GOT A REAL SKIPPER ON THIS FREIGHTER. HE *MAKES* YOU WELCHERS PAY YOUR DEBTS! COME ON!

THAT NIGHT AS THE MOON BATHED THE DECKS IN BRILLIANCE...

NOW THAT A CUT OF YOUR PAY IS SAFE IN MY NAME, I WON'T BE NEEDING YOU ANYMORE, MURRAY! I HEARD YOU TELLIN' NED YOU WAS FIXIN' TO SHOW ME UP AS A CROOKED PLAYER AT UNION HEADQUARTERS!

A BLUNT THUD IN THE NIGHT! A HEAVE OF POWERFUL SHOULDERS AND SEAMAN EDDIE MURRAY GOES HURTLING OVER THE SHIP'S SIDE—HIS GRAVE THE BROAD ATLANTIC...

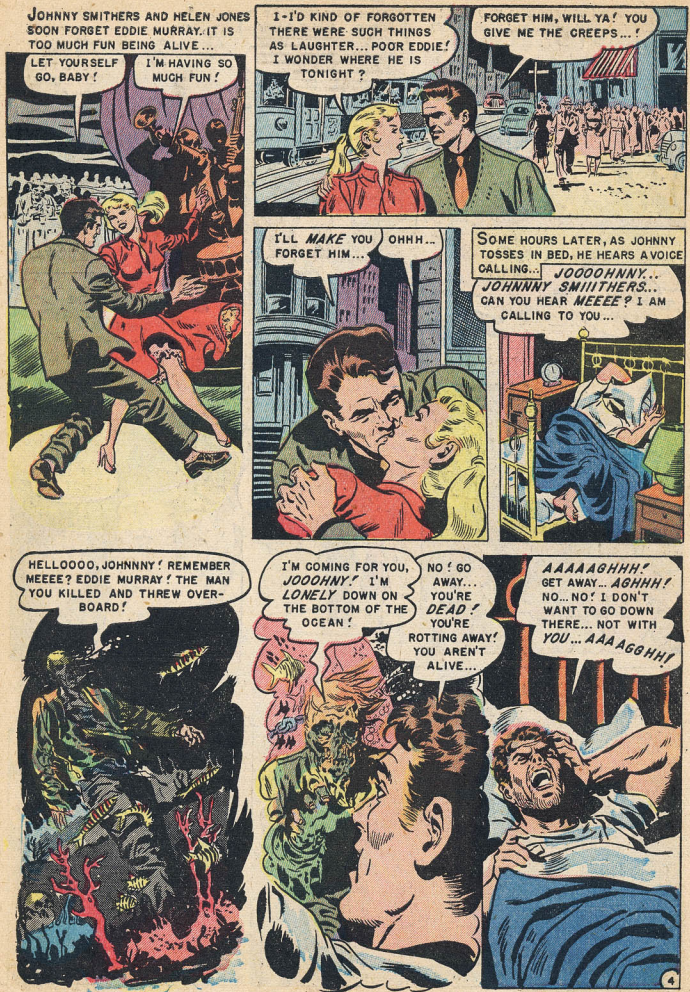
SO LONG, SUCKER! *HA! HA! HA!*

DOWN THROUGH THE COLD DEPTHS OF THE GREEN-GREY WATER SLIDES THE LIMP BODY OF SEAMAN MURRAY...

FOR A LITTLE WHILE A STREAM OF BUBBLES RISES FROM HIS MOUTH. AND AFTER A TIME, THEY STOP...

SLOWLY THE DEAD MAN SETTLES INTO THE OOZE AND MUD OF THE OCEAN'S FLOOR. HIS EYES OPEN TO STARE SIGHTLESSLY. HE STIRS—AND LIFTS AN ARM..

EDDIE MURRAY! YOU ARE DEAD. YOU WERE KILLED BY JOHNNY SMITHERS! REMEMBER? NO..YOU WOULDN'T REMEMBER. YOU DIDN'T SEE IT HAPPEN...
WHERE AM I? IS THIS WATER ALL AROUND ME? I'M NOT BREATHING... BUT I FEEL STRONG. AND THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO DO!
FISH NIBBLING AT MY FLESH... BUT I DON'T FEEL ANYTHING. JUST WANT TO WALK... UNTIL I FIND...WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR...
WHILE THE WALKING HORROR STALKS THE OCEAN BOTTOM, THE HAVANA DOCKS IN NEW YORK...
HE'S ON BOARD. I GOT HIS TELEGRAM WHEN THEY LEFT RIO. OH, EDDIE, IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
DO YOU KNOW A SEAMAN MURRAY? I'M HIS GIRL FRIEND. WE'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED...
SURE, I KNOW HIM. HE GOT DRUNK ONE NIGHT AND FELL OVERBOARD! HMMM.... DIDN'T KNOW HE HAD SUCH GOOD TASTE!
O-OVERBOARD...? SOB! POOR EDDIE... OH, MY POOR DARLING!
NO SENSE CRYIN' OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED! COME ALONG WITH ME AND I'LL—TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!
EDDIE WAS A SWELL GUY. ONLY ONE TROUBLE—HE COULDN'T SHOOT DICE. MATTER OF FACT, IT WAS BECAUSE HE LOST SO MUCH MONEY THAT HE—FELL OVERBOARD!
HE WAS TRYING TO WIN MONEY SO WE COULD GET MARRIED!
MOVING SLOWLY PAST THE WRECK OF A LONG SUNKEN SHIP, FEET SLOGGING IN THE MUD, A THING THAT ONCE WAS HUMAN STALKS FORWARD..
HE'S OUT THERE SOMEWHERE... THE MAN WHO SENT ME DOWN HERE! I WONDER HOW HE'D LIKE TO WALK FOREVER ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN....WITH ME?
3

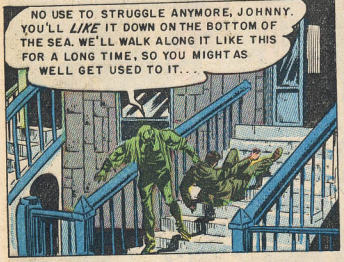

JOHNNY SMITHERS AND HELEN JONES SOON FORGET EDDIE MURRAY. IT IS TOO MUCH FUN BEING ALIVE...
LET YOURSELF GO, BABY!
I'M HAVING SO MUCH FUN!
I-I'D KIND OF FORGOTTEN THERE WERE SUCH THINGS AS LAUGHTER... POOR EDDIE! I WONDER WHERE HE IS TONIGHT?
FORGET HIM, WILL YA! YOU GIVE ME THE CREEPS...!
I'LL MAKE YOU FORGET HIM...
OHHH...
SOME HOURS LATER, AS JOHNNY TOSSES IN BED, HE HEARS A VOICE CALLING...
JOOOOHNNY.. JOHNNNY SMIIITHERS... CAN YOU HEAR MEEEE? I AM CALLING TO YOU...
HELLOOOO, JOHNNNY! REMEMBER MEEEE? EDDIE MURRAY! THE MAN YOU KILLED AND THREW OVERBOARD!
I'M COMING FOR YOU, JOOOHNY! I'M LONELY DOWN ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN!
NO! GO AWAY... YOU'RE DEAD! YOU'RE ROTTING AWAY! YOU AREN'T ALIVE...
AAAAAGHHH! GET AWAY... AGHHH! NO... NO! I DON'T WANT TO GO DOWN THERE... NOT WITH YOU... AAAAGGHH!
4

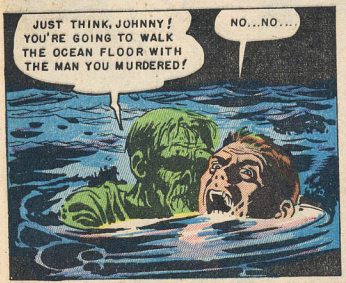
A NIGHTMARE! SURE, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS! I'VE HAD 'EM BEFORE... BUT NEVER SO REAL AS THIS!
WHAT A SAP I AM TO GET DRESSED AND COME WAY DOWN HERE TO THE DOCKS TO SEE IF... IF MY DREAM WOULD COME TRUE!
GUESS I'M JUST PLAIN STUPID! BUT THAT DREAM WAS SO REAL! I COULD FEEL HIS ROTTING HANDS! AND THOSE AWFUL, STARING EYES...
THE WATER IS ALL GONE. I'M STANDING HERE IN THE AIR. I'M ON A DOCK. SOMEWHERE OUT THERE I'LL FIND HIM...
JOHNNY... I'M COMING! WAIT FOR MEEEEE... I CAN'T WALK VERY FAST, JOHNNY, BECAUSE IF I GO FAST, A LOT OF ME WILL BREAK OFF AND FALL...
AHEAD OF THE ROTTING, BLOATED HORROR...
JOHNNY!
OHH, YOU SCARED ME. WHY, IT'S ALMOST MORNING. HAVEN'T YOU BEEN TO BED?
I COULDN'T SLEEP! HELEN-MARRY ME! COME AWAY WITH ME. TO THE COUNTRY... OR SOMEWHERE! I--I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR THE SEA!
OF COURSE I WILL, DEAR. WHY, YOU'RE SHAKING. THERE, NOW. GIVE ME A FEW DAYS TO BUY SOME CLOTHES, AND WE'LL GO ON OUR HONEYMOON!
A FEW DAYS...? NO! NO, IT'S GOT TO BE NOW!

THIS MORNING? OH, I JUST COULDN'T, DARLING!
I HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY. MONEY I WON FROM—FROM A FRIEND! PLEASE, HELEN!
I LOVE YOU, BABY! WE'LL TAKE A PLANE AND FLY FAR AWAY!
YES... YES, DEAR!
I'LL PACK RIGHT AWAY!
SWELL, I'LL MEET YOU AT CITY HALL!
GREAT HEAVENS! WHAT IN THE NAME OF... MY DREAM! MY DREAM!
GET AWAY FROM ME! GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM, YOU DEAD THING.
THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA IS COLD AND LONELY, JOHNNNNY. I WANT SOMEONE TO WALK WITH ME!
COME ALONG, JOHNNY! WE CAN GO ALL OVER THE WORLD, YOU AND I... HAND IN HAND... FOREVER!

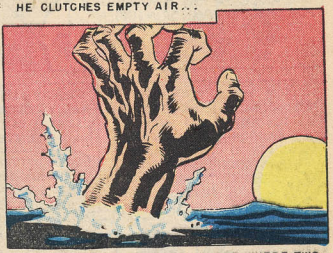
JOHNNY SMITHERS GOES MAD! THE FEEL OF THAT COLD AND SLIMY HAND, SENDS COLD SHUDDERS DOWN HIS SPINE...

IN THE EARLY DAWN OF A NEW YORK MORNING... WHILE THE CITY SLEEPS...



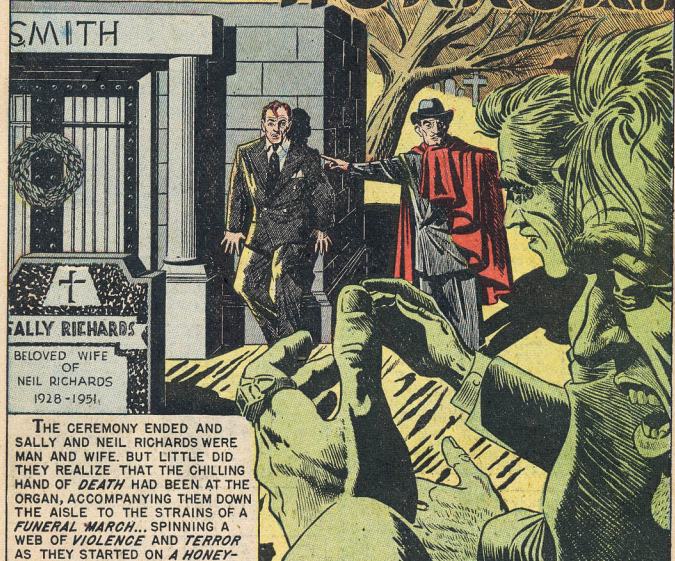


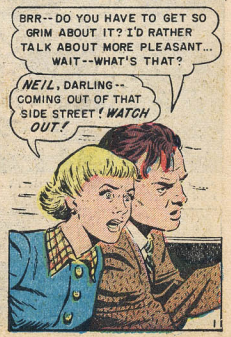
JOHNNY'S SCREAM GURGLES IN HIS THROAT. HE CLUTCHES EMPTY AIR...



AND THEN THERE IS JUST EMPTY WATER, ROLLING ENDLESSLY OVER THE OCEAN FLOOR WHERE TWO MEN WALK, FOREVER...

a honeymoon of HORROR!





GOOD HEAVENS--IT'S COMING SO FAST, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.

HURRY, NEIL--PLEASE! CUT THE WHEEL BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

THE PROTESTING SQUEAL OF BRAKES MINGLES WITH AGONIZING SCREAMS OF A HUMAN VOICE--FOR ONE FATEFUL MOMENT. THEN...

SILENCE HANGS OVER THE CRASH LIKE A PALL OF DEATH. THEN, FEEBLE STIRRINGS SOUND AS...

WH...WHERE AM I? WAIT--I REMEMBER. SALLY--*SALLY*--ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

LOOK, TOM, ONE OF THEM'S ALIVE. LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN DO!

MY WIFE--SHE'S PINNED IN THERE, I'VE GOT TO GET TO HER. WE CAN'T LET HER DIE.

HOLD ON, BUD, YOU CAN'T MOVE THAT STUFF BY YOURSELF. I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND. WAIT--THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY NOW.

JUST MARRIED

SORRY, MISTER, BUT SHE'S *DEAD!*

YOU'RE LYING--SHE CAN'T BE! SALLY--MY WIFE... *NO!*

FOR DAYS, NEIL RICHARDS IS A MAN LIVING IN A SHADOW WORLD. HIS WIFE'S FUNERAL, BURIAL--EVERYTHING IS LOST IN THE DIM HAZE OF A SORROW-CRUSHED MIND. ONLY ONE THING IS REAL--*THE GRAVE*. AND DAY AFTER DAY, NEIL RETURNS TO KEEP A MOURNFUL VIGIL, AS...

I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU, SALLY DEAR, *NEVER!* OH, IF ONLY I COULD SEE YOU, HEAR YOU...TOUCH YOU ONCE MORE. I'D DO ANYTHING FOR THAT.

SALLY RICHARDS

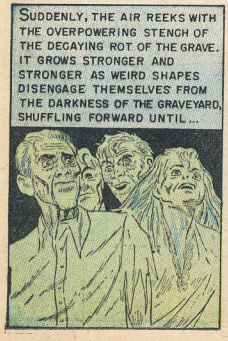
YES, SALLY, I'D EVEN SACRIFICE MY LIFE AND ETERNAL SOUL TO BE WITH YOU. WAIT--WHO'S THAT?

GOOD EVENING, MR. RICHARDS! I HOPE I HEARD YOU CORRECTLY! YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID?
CERTAINLY, I WAS, YOU FOOL! WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

JUST CALL ME MR. PRIM--A FRIEND IN YOUR TIME OF NEED, RICHARDS. IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP YOU SEE YOUR BELOVED WIFE AGAIN.
WHAT? HOW CAN *YOU* DO THIS? TELL ME... QUICKLY!

BLINDED BY THE UNREASONING DESIRE OF A GRIEF-FILLED MIND, RICHARDS LISTENS TO A STRANGE BARGAIN OFFERED BY THE DARK STRANGER, AS...
SEE HOW SIMPLE IT IS, MY FRIEND? YOU ENTRUST YOUR LIFE TO ME, AND I IN TURN, WILL BRING YOUR WIFE BACK TO YOU. NOW, ONE MORE FORMALITY... YOU MUST SIGN THIS PACT--IN BLOOD!

THERE... IT'S DONE! NOW WHERE'S SALLY? I MUST SEE MY WIFE!
PATIENCE, RICHARDS! FIRST I WANT YOU TO MEET MY HELPERS. THEY ARE PEOPLE, LIKE YOURSELF WHO HAVE MADE THE BARGAIN. COME FORWARD, FRIENDS!


SUDDENLY, THE AIR REEKS WITH THE OVERPOWERING STENCH OF THE DECAYING ROT OF THE GRAVE. IT GROWS STRONGER AND STRONGER AS WEIRD SHAPES DISENGAGE THEMSELVES FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE GRAVEYARD, SHUFFLING FORWARD UNTIL...

GOOD LORD-- WHO ARE THESE HORRIBLE CREATURES, MR. PRIM?
THEY, TOO, SIGNED THE PACT AND ARE UNITED IN DEATH WITH THEIR LOVED ONES. THEY'RE HERE TO WELCOME YOU AND YOUR WIFE AMONG THEM.

SLOWLY, THE OVERWHELMING GHASTLINESS OF WHAT HE'S DONE BECOMES CLEAR TO NEIL.
NO, PRIM, I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS TO SALLY AND ME. I DIDN'T REALIZE WHAT I WAS DOING. YOU'RE THE DEVIL INCARNATE!

LOOK, MY FRIENDS! RICHARDS IS NOT HAPPY WITH HIS BARGAIN. STOP HIM! WE'LL SOON MAKE HIM COOPERATIVE.
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU UNHOLY THINGS! GET BACK TO THE GRAVE ... WHERE YOU BELONG!

THERE--I'M FREE! I MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE.
RUN, YOU STUPID FOOL, BUT YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE MR. PRIM. WE'VE MADE A BARGAIN AND...I'LL COLLECT. I ALWAYS DO IN THE END.

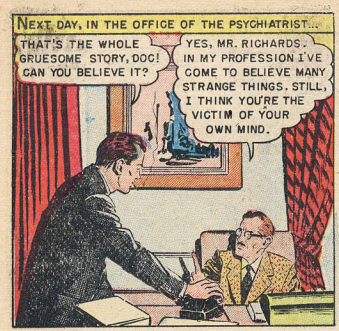
THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED WERE A TORTURE FOR NEIL RICHARDS. THERE WAS NO PEACE, DAY OR NIGHT...
YOUR DEBT, RICHARDS! IT MUST BE PAID!
GO AWAY, YOU FIEND! I DON'T OWE YOU ANYTHING!

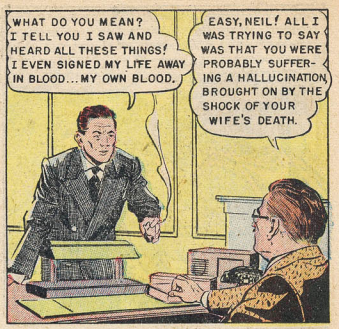
DON'T TOUCH ME... DON'T! HELP--I'M LOST!

THEY'RE KILLING ME! AARGH!
POOR NEIL! HE'S HAVING THAT SAME NIGHTMARE AGAIN. WE'VE GOT TO HELP HIM...SOMEHOW!

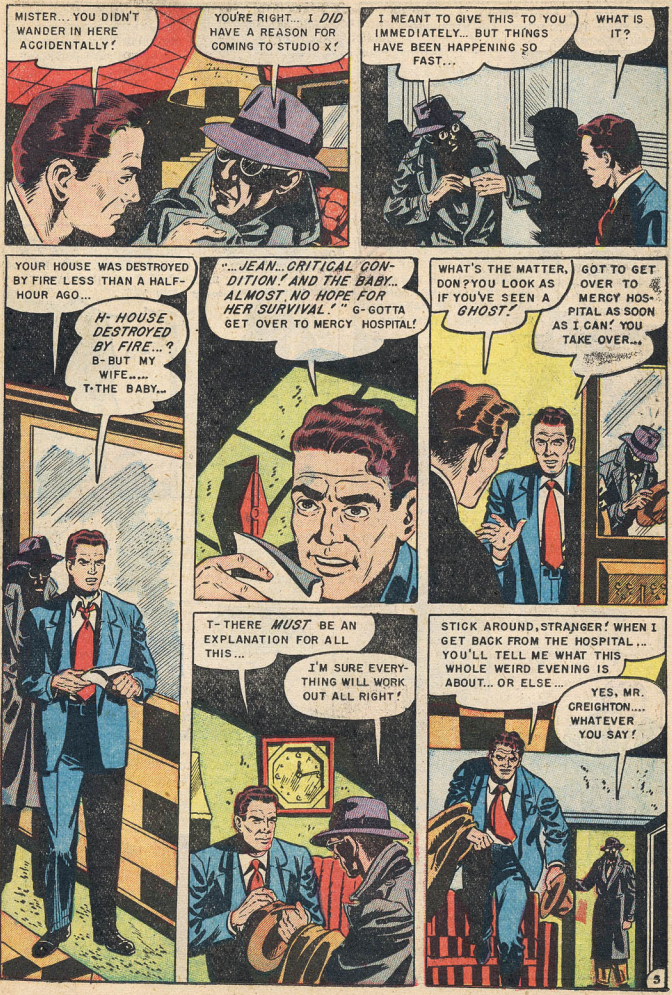
IT'S ALL RIGHT, SON! WE'RE HERE. COME ON, NEIL, SNAP OUT OF IT, BOY!
WH...WHAT HAPPENED? OH...DAD--IT'S YOU. THAT SAME DREAM--OVER AND OVER...

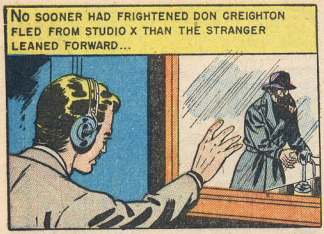
LOOK, SON, YOU'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF. WHY DON'T YOU SEE DR. KUBNOR, THE PSYCHIATRIST! I'M SURE HE'LL HELP YOU FIGHT THIS.
I DON'T KNOW, DAD! I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT ANYMORE. PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT. I'LL SEE HIM TOMORROW.

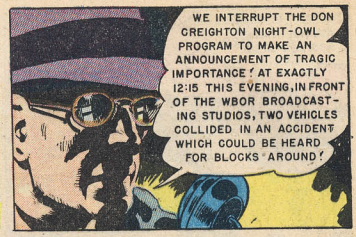




SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY, UNDER THE EXPERT CARE OF DOCTOR KUBNOR, NEIL RICHARDS BEGINS TO FIND HIS WAY BACK TO THE WORLD OF REALITY AND SANITY. THEN ONE DARK NIGHT, WEEKS LATER...


MISTER... YOU DIDN'T WANDER IN HERE ACCIDENTALLY!
YOU'RE RIGHT... I DID HAVE A REASON FOR COMING TO STUDIO X!
I MEANT TO GIVE THIS TO YOU IMMEDIATELY... BUT THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING SO FAST...
WHAT IS IT?
YOUR HOUSE WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE LESS THAN A HALF-HOUR AGO...
H- HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE...? B- BUT MY WIFE..... T- THE BABY...
"...JEAN...CRITICAL CONDITION! AND THE BABY.. ALMOST NO HOPE FOR HER SURVIVAL!" G- GOTTA GET OVER TO MERCY HOSPITAL!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DON? YOU LOOK AS IF YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!
GOT TO GET OVER TO MERCY HOSPITAL AS SOON AS I CAN! YOU TAKE OVER...
T- THERE MUST BE AN EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS...
I'M SURE EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT ALL RIGHT!
STICK AROUND, STRANGER! WHEN I GET BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL... YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT THIS WHOLE WEIRD EVENING IS ABOUT... OR ELSE...
YES, MR. CREIGHTON.... WHATEVER YOU SAY!
3


NO SOONER HAD FRIGHTENED DON CREIGHTON FLED FROM STUDIO X THAN THE STRANGER LEANED FORWARD...

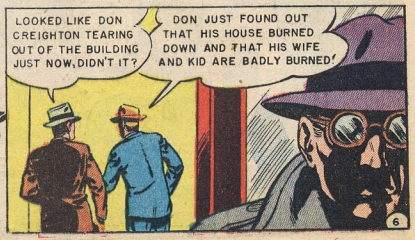

WE INTERRUPT THE DON CREIGHTON NIGHT-OWL PROGRAM TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF TRAGIC IMPORTANCE! AT EXACTLY 12:15 THIS EVENING, IN FRONT OF THE WBOR BROADCASTING STUDIOS, TWO VEHICLES COLLIDED IN AN ACCIDENT WHICH COULD BE HEARD FOR BLOCKS AROUND!

WE ANNOUNCE THE DEATH, IN THAT ACCIDENT, OF AN ENTERTAINER ON THE NIGHT-OWL PROGRAM, MR. DON CREIGHTON! HE WAS KILLED AT PRECISELY 12:15 THIS EVENING!

D-DON... DEAD! IT CAN'T BE! IT'S ONLY 12:14 NOW... AND HE SAID 12:15! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... AND YET...

I-IT'S OLD MIKE, ALL RIGHT! MUST HAVE TOPPLED DOWN THE STAIRS AND BROKEN HIS NECK!
HAPPENED AROUND MIDNIGHT AS CLOSE AS WE CAN FIGURE!

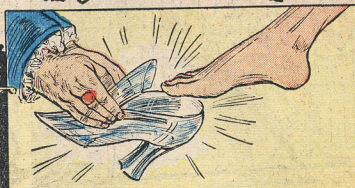
HEAR ABOUT OLD MAN ZANDER? CLOSED HIS GARAGE DOORS, TURNED ON HIS CAR MOTOR AND WENT TO SLEEP! HAPPENED JUST A GOUPLA MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT FROM WHAT I HEAR... STRANGEST THING I EVER RUN AGROSS!


LOOKED LIKE DON CREIGHTON TEARING OUT OF THE BUILDING JUST NOW, DIDN'T IT?
DON JUST FOUND OUT THAT HIS HOUSE BURNED DOWN AND THAT HIS WIFE AND KID ARE BADLY BURNED!

BOOM!
SEE THAT CAR COME WHIPPING AROUND THE CORNER? MUST HAVE BEEN DOING SEVENTY!
GUY JUST STEPPED OFF THE CURB, TOO! HE'S SMASHED UP SO BAD YOU CAN HARDLY RECOGNIZE 'IM!
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO GRUESOME IN MY LIFE! SOMEBODY CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE... NOT THAT IT'S GOING TO DO THIS POOR GUY ANY GOOD ANYMORE!
HERE'S THE GUY'S WALLET... LET'S SEE IF IT TELLS WHO HE WAS! HMMM... HERE'S AN IDENTITY CARD... DONALD M. CREIGHTON...
CREIGHTON...? S-SAY... HE'S THE GUY WHO RUNS THAT DISK JOCKEY PROGRAM RIGHT DOWN THE STREET AT WBOR! FUNNY THING... HIS PROGRAM WAS ALL QUEERED UP TONIGHT...
NO SOONER DID HE SAY "IT IS NOW MIDNIGHT" THAN EVERYTHING SEEMED TO GO HAYWIRE! VOICES SORT OF ARGUING IN THE BACKGROUND... RUNNING FEET... THE WEIRDEST THING YOU EVER HEARD! AND STRANGEST OF ALL... SOMEONE ANNOUNCED CREIGHTON'S OWN DEATH... A COUPLA MINUTES BEFORE IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS... LET'S MOVE THE POOR LUG OUT OF THE GUTTER AND UP ON THE SIDEWALK, UNTIL THE AMBULANCE GETS HERE!
IF ANYONE HAD NOTICED, A MAN WITH THICK-LENSED GLASSES TURNED AND WALKED SLOWLY DOWN THE STREET AT THAT MOMENT...
LISTEN TO STATION WBOR
...THE LAST TIME ANYONE FROM STATION WBOR IS KNOWN TO HAVE SEEN... "THE STRANGER IN STUDIO X!"
THE END

DO YOU KNOW?

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS CONDUCTED THEIR TRIALS IN DARKNESS SO THAT JUDGES WOULD NOT BE SWAYED BY THE APPEARANCE OF PRISONERS OR WITNESSES. HENCE, THE EXPRESSION "**JUSTICE IS BLIND**"



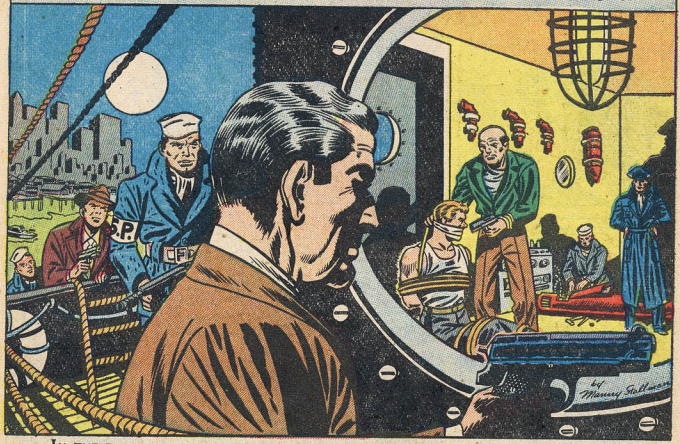
CINDERELLA'S GLASS SLIPPER WAS ORIGINALLY FUR. THROUGH THE MISTAKE OF A BAD TRANSLATOR IT BECAME THE FAMILIAR GLASS ONE WE KNOW TODAY.

IN 1514, SIR JOHN WALLOP, BRITISH ADMIRAL, SUCCEEDED IN THRASHING THE FRENCH NAVY SO WELL THAT THE EXPRESSION "WE WALLOPED THEM" CAME INTO BEING, ADDING A NEW WORD, "**WALLOP**", TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

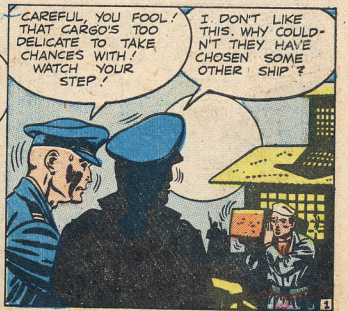
THE WORD "RYE" IN THE SONG "COMING THROUGH THE RYE" REFERS TO THE RIVER **RYE** IN SCOTLAND. IF A BOY CATCHES A GIRL COMING THROUGH THE **RYE**, (WADING), HE MAY CLAIM A KISS.

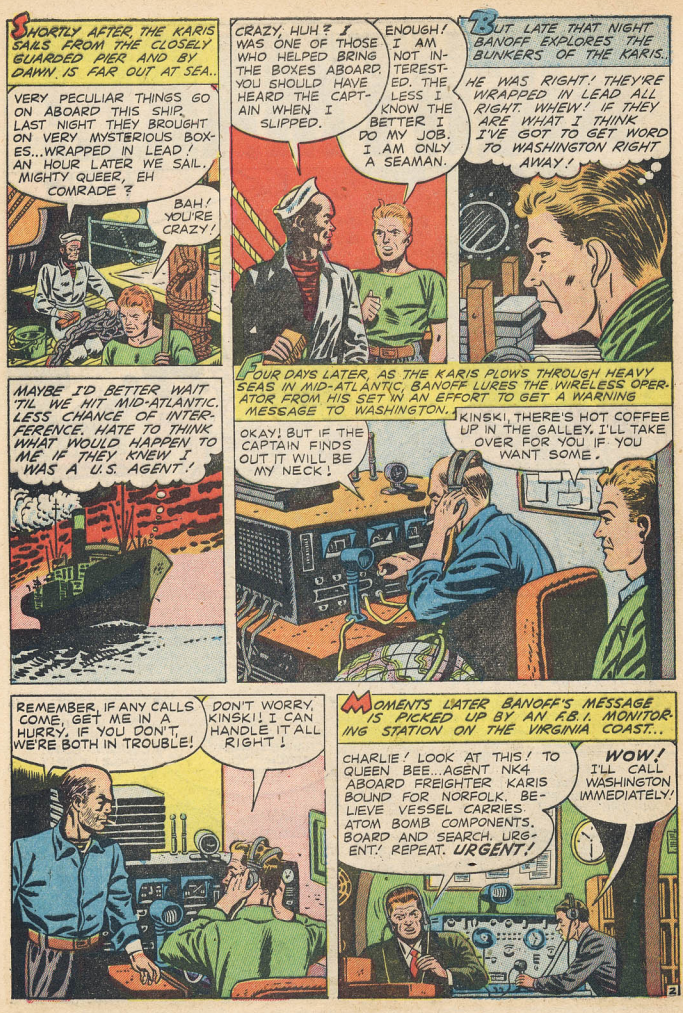
THE EXPRESSION "DEAD AS A HERRING" ARISES FROM THE FACT THAT NO HERRING HAS EVER BEEN TAKEN ALIVE, THEY DIE INSTANTLY ON BEING REMOVED FROM THE WATER.

NIGHTMARE!



IN THEIR GREED FOR *POWER* SOME NATIONS MIGHT GO TO *ANY* LENGTH TO DESTROY THOSE WHO STAND IN THEIR WAY TO ACHIEVE *WORLD DOMINATION*. NOW THAT THE SECRET OF THE *ATOM BOMB* IS KNOWN TO OTHERS, THE UNITED STATES MUST BE DOUBLY CAREFUL OF ATTACK WITH ITS *OWN* WEAPON. U.S. AGENT *ANDRIKO BANOFF* HELD THE KNOWLEDGE OF JUST SUCH AN *ATTACK*. ON HIM RESTED THE FATE OF *THOUSANDS* OF LIVES AND THE *DESTRUCTION* OF NEW YORK HARBOR.




SHORTLY AFTER THE KARIS SAILS FROM THE CLOSELY GUARDED PIER AND BY DAWN IS FAR OUT AT SEA..
VERY PECULIAR THINGS GO ON ABOARD THIS SHIP. LAST NIGHT THEY BROUGHT ON VERY MYSTERIOUS BOXES...WRAPPED IN LEAD! AN HOUR LATER WE SAIL. MIGHTY QUEER, EH COMRADE?
BAH! YOU'RE CRAZY!
CRAZY, HUH? I WAS ONE OF THOSE WHO HELPED BRING THE BOXES ABOARD. YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD THE CAPTAIN WHEN I SLIPPED.
ENOUGH! I AM NOT INTERESTED. THE LESS I KNOW THE BETTER I DO MY JOB. I AM ONLY A SEAMAN.
BUT LATE THAT NIGHT BANOFF EXPLORES THE BUNKERS OF THE KARIS..
HE WAS RIGHT! THEY'RE WRAPPED IN LEAD ALL RIGHT. WHEW! IF THEY ARE WHAT I THINK I'VE GOT TO GET WORD TO WASHINGTON RIGHT AWAY!
FOUR DAYS LATER, AS THE KARIS PLOWS THROUGH HEAVY SEAS IN MID-ATLANTIC, BANOFF LURES THE WIRELESS OPERATOR FROM HIS SET IN AN EFFORT TO GET A WARNING MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON.
MAYBE I'D BETTER WAIT 'TIL WE HIT MID-ATLANTIC. LESS CHANCE OF INTERFERENCE. HATE TO THINK WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO ME IF THEY KNEW I WAS A U.S. AGENT!
OKAY! BUT IF THE CAPTAIN FINDS OUT IT WILL BE MY NECK!
KINSKI, THERE'S HOT COFFEE UP IN THE GALLEY. I'LL TAKE OVER FOR YOU IF YOU WANT SOME.
REMEMBER, IF ANY CALLS COME, GET ME IN A HURRY. IF YOU DON'T, WE'RE BOTH IN TROUBLE!
DON'T WORRY, KINSKI! I CAN HANDLE IT ALL RIGHT!
MOMENTS LATER BANOFF'S MESSAGE IS PICKED UP BY AN F.B.I. MONITORING STATION ON THE VIRGINIA COAST...
CHARLIE! LOOK AT THIS! TO QUEEN BEE...AGENT NK4 ABOARD FREIGHTER KARIS BOUND FOR NORFOLK. BELIEVE VESSEL CARRIES ATOM BOMB COMPONENTS. BOARD AND SEARCH. URGENT! REPEAT. URGENT!
WOW! I'LL CALL WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY!

BUT TWO DAYS LATER AND FIFTY MILES OFF NORFOLK A SURPRISING EVENT TAKES PLACE...

SEE, I TOLD YOU THERE WAS SOMETHING GOING ON. NOW THEY ARE CHANGING THE NAME OF THE SHIP TO THE VESTNIA AND WE ARE LANDING IN NEW YORK!

SO WHAT. I DON'T CARE WHERE WE GO AS LONG AS I'M PAID.

THEY'RE SMARTER THAN I THOUGHT! I'M IN A FIX NOW. THE BOYS WILL BE WAITING AT NORFOLK I'VE GOT TO WARN THEM!

BUT THAT NIGHT AS BANOFF APPROACHES THE RADIO CABIN HE FINDS IT GUARDED...

WHAT DO YOU WANT UP HERE, ANDRIKO? I HAVE ORDERS TO KEEP EVERY-ONE AWAY FROM THE RADIO ROOM!

ACH! YOU FRIGHT-ENED ME! I WAS JUST GOING TO ASK PETER IF HE WANTED SOME COFFEE. WHAT'S GOING ON, ANYWAY?

I DON'T KNOW! WHATEVER IT IS IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSINESS. I DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! NOW GET OUT OF HERE!

ALL RIGHT, I'M GOING!

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? IF I DON'T GET WORD ASHORE THERE'S NO TELL-ING WHAT WILL HAPPEN! THEY CAN WRECK THE HARBOR, AND KILL THOUSANDS! I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING!

DESPERATE, THE FATE OF NEW YORK IN HIS HANDS, BANOFF IS UNABLE TO ACT AS THE DEATH LADEN SHIP ANCHORS IN THE NARROWS...

ALL RIGHT, SHE'S WORK-ING NOW. SWING THE HOOK OVER.

RIGHT! WATCH OUT BELOW!

TIME IS WASTING! GOT TO GET A WARN-ING OUT, BUT HOW? THAT CHAIN! I WONDER..

AS THE CABLE AND HOOK SWEEP THE DECK BANOFF DELIBERATELY STEPS IN ITS PATH...

LOOK OUT!

WELL, HERE GOES...

EEEOW!

MAN OVER-BOARD!

MAN OVER-BOARD!

MINUTES LATER...

IT IS TOO BAD! HE NEVER CAME UP. THAT HOOK MUST'VE CRUSHED HIS SKULL.

WE MAY AS WELL GO BACK TO THE SHIP. I GUESS HE'S GONE. POOR ANDRIKO.

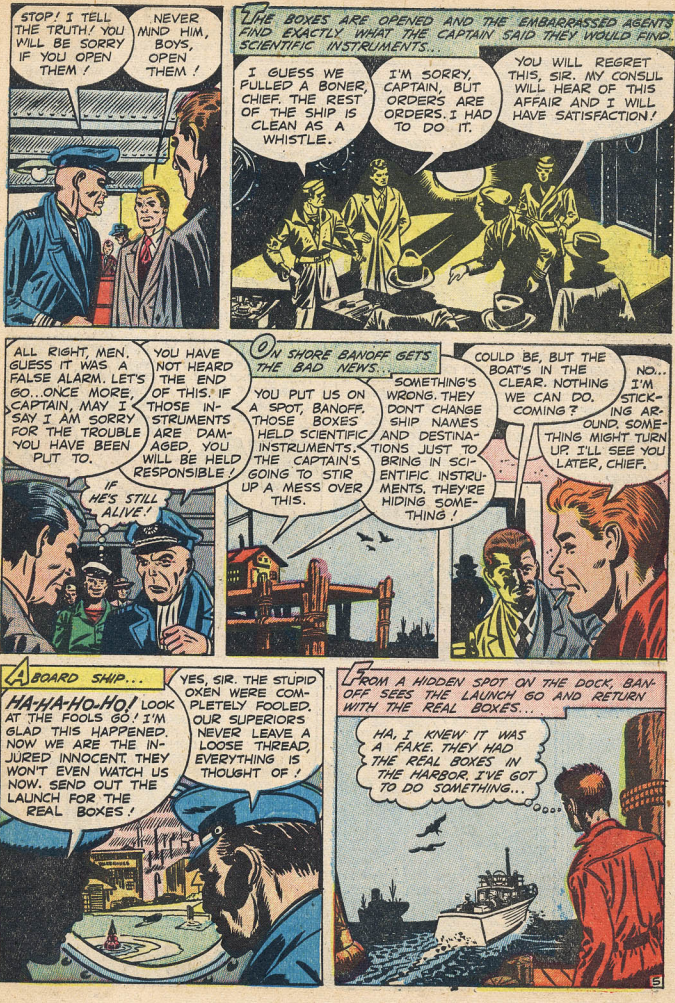
PHEW! NOW IF I CAN SWIM TO SHORE WITHOUT BEING SEEN, THERE MIGHT STILL BE TIME.

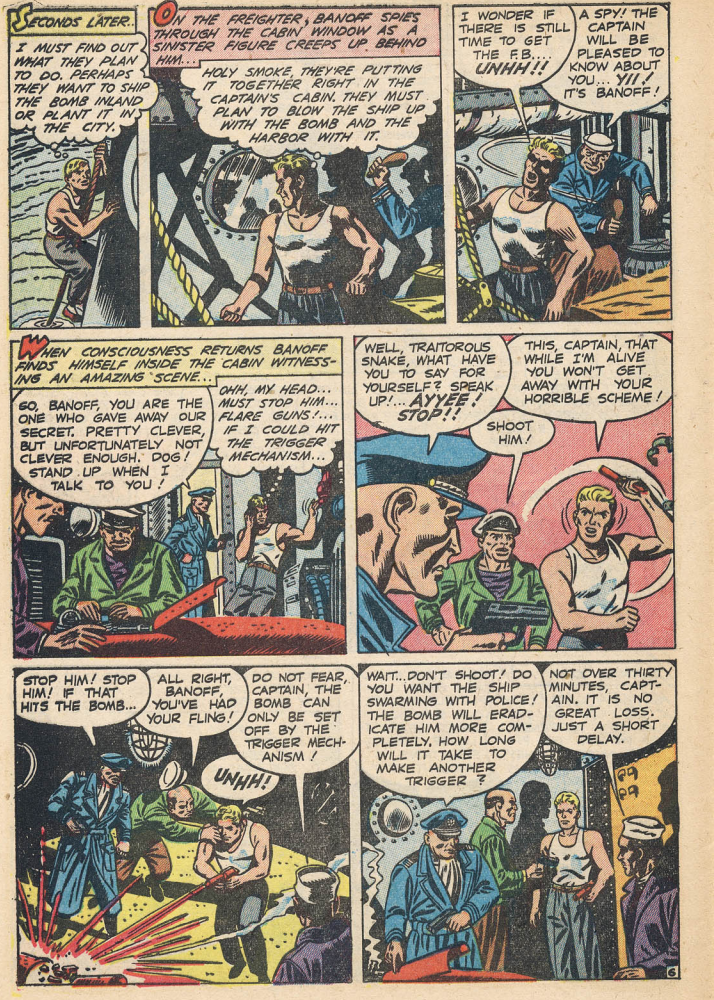
BACK ON THE FREIGHTER...

I DON'T LIKE IT. HE MAY BE DEAD AND THEN AGAIN HE MAY NOT. WE'LL USE THE EMERGENCY PLAN!

I AGREE. WITH THE BOXES UNDER THE WATER AND THE DUPLI-CATES IN PLACE WE'LL BE SAFE.

SEE THAT THEY ARE PUT OVER IMMEDIATELY. UNDER THAT BUOY OUT THERE WOULD BE A GOOD SPOT. MAKE SURE THAT THE NORFOLK PAPERS ARE BURNED AND THE NEW ONES IN ORDER.
I'VE ALREADY DONE SO. AS SOON AS THE BOXES ARE REPLACED WE'LL BE READY FOR ANYONE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE N.Y. OFFICES OF THE F.B.I....
THEY COVERED THEMSELVES FROM EVERY ANGLE. WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM NOW!
WE'VE NOTIFIED THE HARBOR POLICE AND ALERTED EVERY PORT CITY TO SEARCH ALL SHIPS! YOU'D BETTER GET SOME REST. THAT WAS A ROUGH SWIM.
I FEEL FINE. I WOULDN'T MISS BEING IN ON THE KILL FOR ANYTHING!
YOU CAN COME, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STAY ON THE DOCK. DON'T WANT THEM TO RECOGNIZE YOU.
SOMETIME LATER HARBOR POLICE AND F.B.I. AGENTS SWARM ABOARD THE FREIGHTER...
THIS SHIP IS IMPOUNDED. WE ARE SEARCHING HER FOR CONTRABAND.
CONTRABAND! MY DEAR SIR, WE ARE JUST AN ORDINARY FREIGHTER. YOU ARE MISTAKEN, BUT AS YOU WISH. THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN.
I ASSURE YOU, YOU WILL FIND NOTHING. WE DO NOT DEAL IN SMUGGLING.
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN... MAKE IT THOROUGH, BOYS.
THE SEARCHING PARTY DISCOVERS THE DUPLICATE LEAD-COVERED BOXES...
CHIEF! QUICK! I THINK WE'VE FOUND IT!
WAIT! DON'T TOUCH THAT!
STEP ASIDE, CAPTAIN, WE'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT'S IN THOSE!
PLEASE! PLEASE! GENTLEMEN, NO! THESE BOXES CONTAIN VERY DELICATE SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS THAT WILL BE RUINED BY THE SLIGHTEST CONTACT WITH RADIO-ACTIVITY. I BEG YOU NOT TO OPEN THEM!
I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT... MOVE HIM OUT OF THERE, BOYS.
4


STOP! I TELL THE TRUTH! YOU WILL BE SORRY IF YOU OPEN THEM!
NEVER MIND HIM, BOYS, OPEN THEM!
THE BOXES ARE OPENED AND THE EMBARRASSED AGENTS FIND EXACTLY WHAT THE CAPTAIN SAID THEY WOULD FIND. SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS...
I GUESS WE FULLED A BONER, CHIEF. THE REST OF THE SHIP IS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE.
I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN, BUT ORDERS ARE ORDERS. I HAD TO DO IT.
YOU WILL REGRET THIS, SIR. MY CONSUL WILL HEAR OF THIS AFFAIR AND I WILL HAVE SATISFACTION!
ALL RIGHT, MEN, I GUESS IT WAS A FALSE ALARM. LET'S GO...ONCE MORE, CAPTAIN, MAY I SAY I AM SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE YOU HAVE BEEN PUT TO.
YOU HAVE NOT HEARD THE END OF THIS. IF THOSE INSTRUMENTS ARE DAMAGED, YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE!
IF HE'S STILL ALIVE!
ON SHORE BANOFF GETS THE BAD NEWS...
YOU PUT US ON A SPOT, BANOFF, THOSE BOXES HELD SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS, THE CAPTAIN'S GOING TO STIR UP A MESS OVER THIS.
SOMETHING'S WRONG. THEY DON'T CHANGE SHIP NAMES AND DESTINATIONS JUST TO BRING IN SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS. THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING!
COULD BE, BUT THE BOAT'S IN THE CLEAR. NOTHING WE CAN DO. COMING?
NO... I'M STICKING AROUND. SOMETHING MIGHT TURN UP. I'LL SEE YOU LATER, CHIEF.
ABOARD SHIP...
HA-HA-HO-HO! LOOK AT THE FOOLS GO! I'M GLAD THIS HAPPENED. NOW WE ARE THE INJURED INNOCENT. THEY WON'T EVEN WATCH US NOW. SEND OUT THE LAUNCH FOR THE REAL BOXES!
YES, SIR. THE STUPID OXEN WERE COMPLETELY FOOLED. OUR SUPERIORS NEVER LEAVE A LOOSE THREAD, EVERYTHING IS THOUGHT OF!
FROM A HIDDEN SPOT ON THE DOCK, BANOFF SEES THE LAUNCH GO AND RETURN WITH THE REAL BOXES...
HA, I KNEW IT WAS A FAKE. THEY HAD THE REAL BOXES IN THE HARBOR. I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING...
5


SECONDS LATER.
I MUST FIND OUT WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO. PERHAPS THEY WANT TO SHIP THE BOMB INLAND OR PLANT IT IN THE CITY.
ON THE FREIGHTER, BANOFF SPIES THROUGH THE CABIN WINDOW AS A SINISTER FIGURE CREEPS UP BEHIND HIM...
HOLY SMOKE, THEY'RE PUTTING IT TOGETHER RIGHT IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN. THEY MUST PLAN TO BLOW THE SHIP UP WITH THE BOMB AND THE HARBOR WITH IT.
I WONDER IF THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET THE F.B.I.
UNHH!!
A SPY! THE CAPTAIN WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU... YII! IT'S BANOFF!
WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS BANOFF FINDS HIMSELF INSIDE THE CABIN WITNESSING AN AMAZING SCENE...
SO, BANOFF, YOU ARE THE ONE WHO GAVE AWAY OUR SECRET, PRETTY CLEVER, BUT UNFORTUNATELY NOT CLEVER ENOUGH, DOG! STAND UP WHEN I TALK TO YOU!
OHH, MY HEAD... MUST STOP HIM... FLARE GUNS!... IF I COULD HIT THE TRIGGER MECHANISM...
WELL, TRAITOROUS SNAKE, WHAT HAVE YOU TO SAY FOR YOURSELF? SPEAK UP!... AYYEE! STOP!!
SHOOT HIM!
THIS, CAPTAIN, THAT WHILE I'M ALIVE YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH YOUR HORRIBLE SCHEME!
STOP HIM! STOP HIM! IF THAT HITS THE BOMB...
ALL RIGHT, BANOFF, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FLING!
DO NOT FEAR, CAPTAIN, THE BOMB CAN ONLY BE SET OFF BY THE TRIGGER MECHANISM!
UNHH!
WAIT... DON'T SHOOT! DO YOU WANT THE SHIP SWARMING WITH POLICE! THE BOMB WILL ERADICATE HIM MORE COMPLETELY, HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO MAKE ANOTHER TRIGGER?
NOT OVER THIRTY MINUTES, CAPTAIN. IT IS NO GREAT LOSS. JUST A SHORT DELAY.
99
99

GOOD. WE MUST REACH THE BOAT THAT IS GOING TO PICK US UP BEFORE MORNING OR THEY WILL LEAVE. THEY'RE AT THE OTHER END OF STATEN ISLAND...NOW TIE HIM UP AND GAG HIM. I WANT NO SLIP-UPS THIS TIME.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL SEE TO THAT !
BOUND AND HELPLESS BANOFF WATCHES IN HORROR AS THE TRIGGER IS REBUILT...
I'M A BUNGLING FOOL...THAT BOMB WILL KILL THOUSANDS, WRECK THE CITY. IF I COULD ONLY DO SOMETHING...
AS THE MINUTES TICK BY AND THE JOB NEARS COMPLETION BANOFF SINKS INTO A MORASS OF DISPAIR...THEN SUDDENLY AT THE DOOR AND PORTHOLES...
THE CHIEF AND HIS MEN ! THANK GOD...
ALL RIGHT, RAISE THEM, AND HIGH ! DETACH THAT TRIGGER QUICK AND ONE OF YOU RELEASE BANOFF !
NO! NO! IT CANNOT BE !
IT IS HIS FAULT ! I'LL KILL... AAGGH!
ANYONE ELSE WANT A SLUG ? JUST START MOVING !
THANK GOD, YOU GOT HERE ! I WAS SURE IT WAS ALL OVER. I THOUGHT THOSE RATS HAD YOU BUFFALOED.
SORRY YOU HAD TO BE SCARED THAT WAY, BANOFF, BUT I WANTED TO GET THEM WITH THE GOODS. I WANTED THEM TO BRING OUT THE REAL STUFF !
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE AS LONG AS YOU GOT HERE.
TAKE 'EM AWAY, BOYS. WE'D BETTER NOT TOUCH THIS BABY TILL WE GET SOME ATOMIC EXPERTS HERE TO LOOK IT OVER. I'LL HAVE THE DOCK SEALED OFF.
IF THAT THING HAD GONE OFF THE DAMAGE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED. THE PUBLIC MUST NEVER KNOW HOW CLOSE THEY CAME TO SUDDEN DEATH !
SOME WEEKS LATER IN WASHINGTON...
ANDRIKO BANOFF, WE PRESENT YOU WITH THIS MEDAL AS A TOKEN OF ESTEEM FROM A GRATEFUL COUNTRY. YOUR DEED WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY !
THANK YOU, SIR !
THUS ENDED AN EVIL ATTEMPT THAT MIGHT HAVE WRECKED EVERY PORT IN THE U.S. IN THE SWIFT RAIDS THAT FOLLOWED TWELVE MORE BOMBS WERE UNCOVERED AND THE HORRIBLE THREAT OF ATOMIC DESTRUCTION WAS ENDED BY THE ALERTNESS AND RESOURCEFULNESS OF AGENT NK4, ANDRIKO BANOFF.....
THE END

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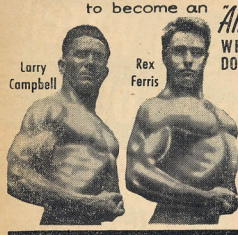

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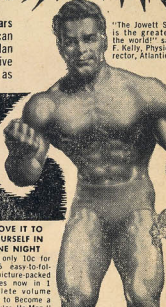

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